

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00888 090825Z

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ACTION NEA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 SSO-00 /004 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2894

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0888

USIAC

USIA FOR IOP/M; INA; IPS; IBS; BEIRUT FOR VOA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: SECSTATE VISIT: MEDIA REACTION MARCH 9, 1975

1. MAJOR PRESS ATTENTION TODAY FOCUSED ON PRESIDENT ASAD'S SPEECH ON OCCASION BAATH PARTY REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY. (SEE DAMASCUS 884). BAATH BANNERED: "NO FORCE ON EARTH CAN PRESSURE US OR DIVERT US FROM OUR GOALS. PREPARED TO ESTABLISHED ONE POLITICAL AND MILITARY SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN COMMAND."

2. PROMINENTLY PLAYED IS CONGRATULATORY CABLE FROM ARAFAT TO ASAD, WHICH INCLUDED FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND ITS REVOLUTIONARIES AND COMMAND REPRESENTED BY THE PLO WARMLY WELCOME YOUR CALL FOR THE FORMATION OF ONE SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN MILITARY AND PLITICAL COMMAND FOR THE FACILITATION OF A UNIFIED ARAB POSITION FOR LIBERATION AND RETURN." ELSEWHERE, BAATH PUBLISHED COMMENTS BY "PROMINENT PLO LEADER IN DAMASCUS" LAUDING ASAD'S POSITION ON PALESTINE. COMMENTING ON PROPOSAL FOR JOINT POLITICAL-MILITARY COMMAND, HE SAID: "UNDOUBTEDLY THIS COMMITMENT WILL RECEIVE THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF STUDY
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 00888 090825Z

BY THE PALESTINE REVOLUTION IN ORDER TO TAKE THE NECESSARY

STEPS FOR ITS EXECUTION, WITH THE HOPE THAT EGYPT WOULD
BE INCLUDED."

3. BOTH DAILIES REPORT NEWS AGENCY DISPATCHES ON
SECRETARY'S TALKS IN ASWAN. NO EDITORIAL COMMENT OR
ANALYSIS.
KEITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC00888
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750082-0931
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750368/aaaacjpe.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2003 by McShalBA>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECSTATE VISIT: MEDIA REACTION MARCH 9, 1975
TAGS: PFOR, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006